

Message Text

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FOR EUR/WE SWIHART

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL, OTRA, IT
SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT DELEGATION FROM PRATO AND POGGIO A
CAIONO TO CHARLOTTESVILLE AND ALBEMARLE COUNTY VIRGINIA

1. AT REQUESTS OF MAYOR S OF POGGIO A CAIANO AND PRATO, I
MET WITH GROUP REPRESENTING BOTH CITIES TO DISCUSS THEIR
DESIRE TO PAY RETURN VISIT TO CHARLOTTESVILLE AND ALBEMARLE
COUNTY FOLLOWING VISIT TO PRATO AND POGGIO A CAIANO OF
DELEGATION INCLUDING MAYOR OF CHARLOTTESVILLE AND PRESIDENT
ALBEMARLE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN MAY 1977. HIGH
POINT OF VISIT WOULD BE PRESENTATION TO CHARLOTTESVILLE OF
STAINED GLASS WINDOW FOR REBUILT CHARLOTTESVILLE BAPTIST
CHURCH WHICH HAD BEEN SUGGESTED BY CHARLOTTESVILLE DELEGATION
AND AGREED TO BY PRATO AND POGGIO A CAIANO DURING VISIT OF LAST
MAY.

2. THESE TWO ITALIAN CITIES HAVE VERY LARGE OPERATION IN MIND
AND DELEGATION COULD CONSIST OF AROUND 70 INDIVIDUALS. IN
ADDITION TO MAYORS AND CITY OFFICIALS, THERE WOULD BE
REPRESENTATIVES OF TOURIST ASSOCIATIONS, INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS,
BANKS, ARTISAN ASSOCIATIONS AND SCHOOLS. AS WITH PREVIOUS VISIT
TO CHARLOTTESVILLE IN 1976, DELEGATION WOULD PAY ALL OF ITS
EXPENSES.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 FLOREN 00034 260308Z POSS DUPE

3. DURING OUR DISCUSSION OF PROPOSAL, REPRESENTATIVES AGREED
WITH MY OBSERVATION THAT 70 OFFICIAL VISITORS WOULD BE FAR
TOO MUCH FOR CHARLOTTESVILLE AND ALBEMARLE TO HANDLE. THEY
SUGGESTED THAT ONLY A FEW MEMBERS OF COMPLETE GROUP WOULD BE
DESIGNATED AS OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES.

4. REPRESENTATIVES SUGGESTED APPROXIMATELY TWO-DAY VISIT DURING FIRST 15 DAYS OF APRIL WITH VISITS TO OTHER AMERICAN CITIES SUCH AS NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON BEFORE OR AFTER VISIT TO CHARLOTTESVILLE.

5. SINCE MAYOR OF PRATO IS COMMUNIST AND IT PROBABLE THAT 2 OF 3 OF ACCOMPANYING PRATO OFFICIALS (ASSESSORE) WOULD ALSO BE COMMUNISTS, WE HAVE A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT PROBLEM FROM THAT DURING OCTOBER 1976 VISIT WHEN DELEGATION CONTAINED NO COMMUNISTS.

6. BEFORE PROCEEDING ANY FURTHER WITH THIS MATTER, I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING FOLLOWING ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE.

(A) DOES CHARLOTTESVILLE STILL DESIRE PROPOSED GIFT OF STAINED GLASS WINDOW. IF SO, WHAT IS EXACT SIZE DESIRED (36X18 INCHES WAS ONE OF THE SIZES DISCUSSED WHEN DELEGATION VISITED HERE).

(B) ARE MRS. O'BRIEN AND MR. FISHER STILL MAYOR OF CHARLOTTESVILLE AND PRESIDENT ALBEMARLE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESPECTIVELY? IF THEY ARE, WOULD YOU PLEASE CONTACT THEM AND SOUND THEM OUT ON VISIT.

(C) IF EITHER OR BOTH HAVE BEEN REPLACED, WOULD YOU SOUND THEM OUT ON IDEA OF VISIT AND PRESENTATION OF WINDOW.
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 FLOREN 00034 260308Z POSS DUPE

(D) IF MAYOR AND PREIDENT AGREE TO VIST, ARE DATES SUGGESTED ACCEPTABLE?
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